



AUG.
NO. 40

12¢



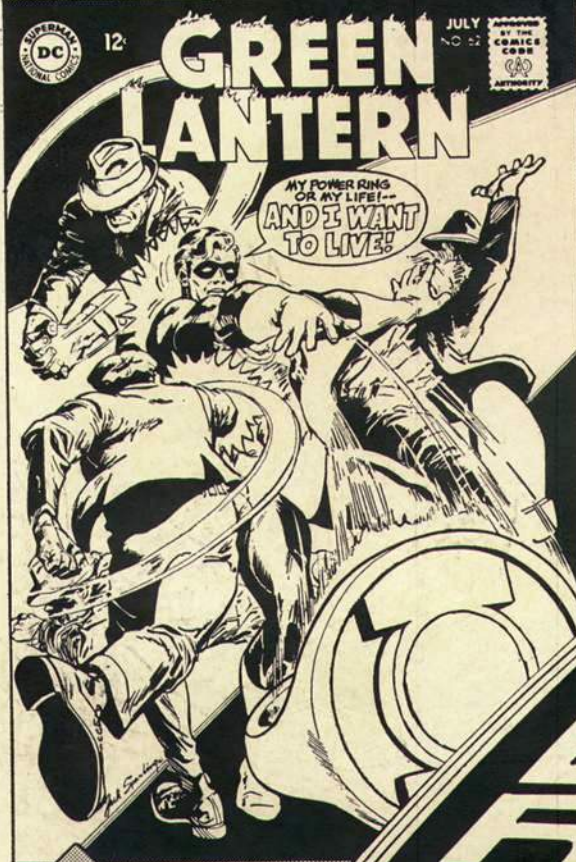
AQUAMAN

HELP!
SAVE ME...
PLEASE!



CARDY

EVERYBODY HAS Problems.



BUT WHO WOULD YOU SAY HAS MORE...

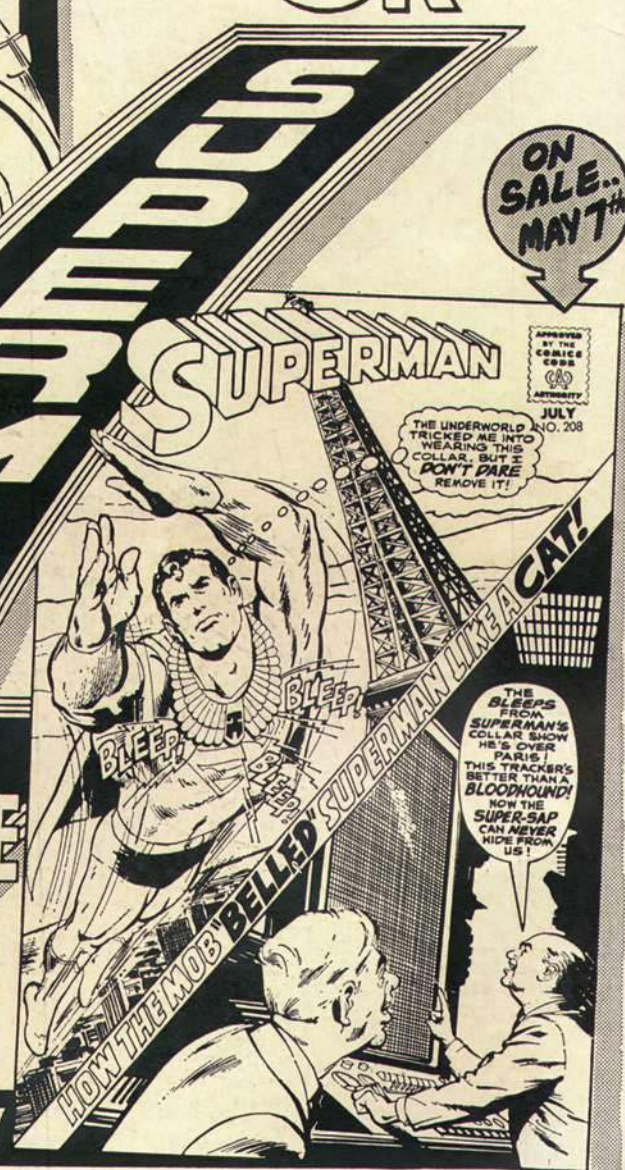
GREEN LANTERN OR

ON SALE... MAY 28th

ON SALE... MAY 7th

YOU BE THE JUDGE!

...AFTER YOU READ THEM!



THE SERENE SEA... FAMILIAR FIGURES STROLL THE OCEAN FLOOR ...



...SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING... WITHOUT APPARENT REASON... THE SEA ITSELF BEGINS TO CHURN AND WHIRL ABOUT... SMALL EDDIES GROW EVER LARGER... AND, WITHIN SECONDS, THE FIRST FAMILY OF ATLANTIS FINDS ITSELF SURROUNDED BY A WILD, SWIRLING MADNESS...



WH... WHAT'S HAPPENING, AQUAMAN?

GREAT WAVES!

I DON'T KNOW, MERA! FOLLOW ME! IT SEEMS... CALM UP AHEAD! ...IF WE CAN JUST...

BUT AS THEY PUSH FORWARD...

AQUAMAN... SOMETHING'S WRONG! I FEEL WEAK... GROGGY! CAN HARDLY MOVE!

I... I... HAVE THE SAME FEELING... ALMOST AS THOUGH I'D BEEN **DRUGGED!**

... WHATEVER IT IS... WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT IT! WE **MUST** GET BACK TO CALM WATER...!

KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON **AQUABABY, MINNOW!** TRY TO SHIELD HIM FROM THE FORCE OF THE WATER!

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THEY PUSH ON... THE WATER
SWIRLS FASTER AND FASTER,
PICKING UP SAND FROM THE
OCEAN FLOOR...

...VISION IS OBSCURED... THE
DIZZINESS GROWS... AND FINALLY...

EVERYTHING SO BLURRY...
CAN'T... LOST SIGHT OF MERA...
AND AQUALAD... WHERE...
ARE THEY??

SO WEAK... CAN'T KEEP
GOING... GOTTA CLOSE MY
EYES FOR A SECOND... JUST
FOR A SECOND...

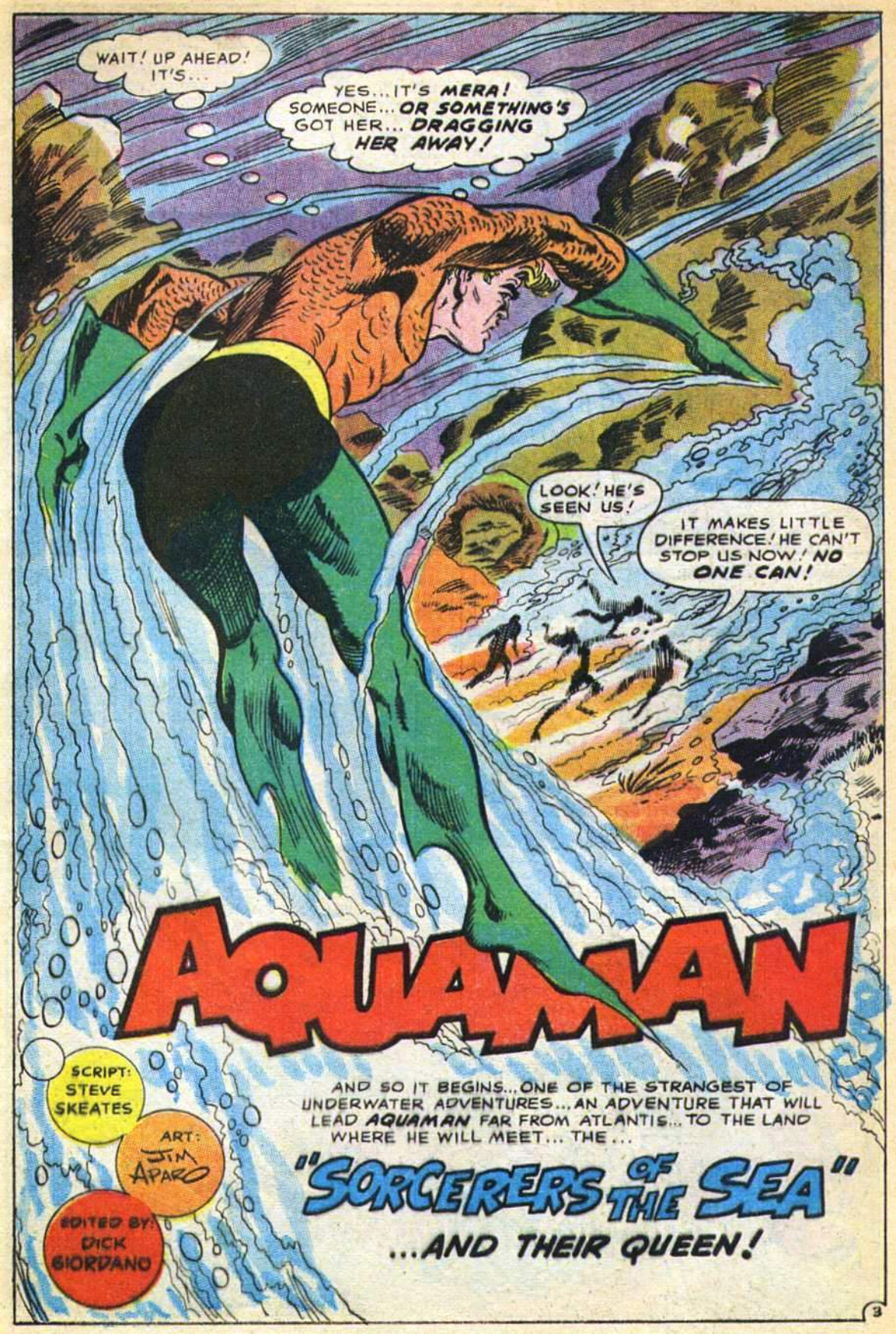
BUT AS HIS
EYES BEGIN TO
SHUT...

NO! STOP!

HELP!
AQUAMAN!!

WHA---? M... MERA!!

MERA! WHERE
ARE YOU? HEARD HER
VOICE! SHE... NEEDS HELP!
BUT... CAN'T SEE HER... EVERY-
THING BLURRY! I...

A dynamic comic book illustration of Aquaman swimming through turbulent, swirling blue and white water. He is wearing his iconic orange and green suit with a yellow belt. His expression is one of intense focus as he looks forward. In the background, several dark, shadowy figures are seen swimming away from him, suggesting a chase or escape. The overall scene is dramatic and action-packed.

WAIT! UP AHEAD!
IT'S...

YES...IT'S MERA!
SOMEONE... OR SOMETHING'S
GOT HER... DRAGGING
HER AWAY!

LOOK! HE'S
SEEN US!

IT MAKES LITTLE
DIFFERENCE! HE CAN'T
STOP US NOW! NO
ONE CAN!

AQUAMAN

SCRIPT:
STEVE
SKEATES

ART:
JIM
APARO

EDITED BY
DICK
GIORDANO

AND SO IT BEGINS...ONE OF THE STRANGEST OF
UNDERWATER ADVENTURES...AN ADVENTURE THAT WILL
LEAD **AQUAMAN** FAR FROM ATLANTIS...TO THE LAND
WHERE HE WILL MEET... THE ...

"SORCERERS OF THE SEA"

...AND THEIR QUEEN!

WITH SUDDEN SWIFTNESS, ONE OF MERA'S CAPTORS SPRINGS BACK TOWARD **AQUAMAN**... AND BEFORE THE GROGGY **SEA KING** CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIS ATTACKER...



THERE! THAT TAKES CARE OF "THE GREAT **AQUAMAN**!"

COME! WE'VE GOT WHO WE CAME FOR! LET US GO HOME WITH OUR PRIZE!



MEANWHILE, BACK IN ATLANTIS...

THIS MOST URGENT MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED SO THAT WE MAY DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF OUR RACE! NOW THAT MOST OF US HAVE BECOME AIR BREATHERS,* WE NO LONGER HAVE TO LIVE HERE, BENEATH THE SEA, HOWEVER...



* SEE **AQUAMAN NO. 35**.

AS **AQUAGIRL** SWIMS OUT, AWAY FROM THE GREAT DOMED CITY...

SOMETHING'S WRONG! IT'S NOT LIKE **AQUAMAN** AND THE OTHERS TO MISS AN IMPORTANT MEETING LIKE THIS! HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO THEM!

HEY! A COUPLE OF FIGURES... OFF IN THE DISTANCE! IT... IT'S...

AQUALAD! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO **AQUAMAN**?

TULA! ARE YOU A SIGHT FOR WEARY EYES! C'MON DOWN! I NEED SOME HELP!

WE WERE CAUGHT IN SOME SORT OF... A... A WHIRLPOOL! I GOT DIZZY... MUST HAVE PASSED OUT! WHEN I CAME TO, THE OCEAN WAS CALM AGAIN... AND **AQUABABY** WAS SITTING NEXT TO ME, CRYING!

I FOUND **AQUAMAN** LIKE THIS! COULDN'T FIND MERA ANYWH... HEY! HE'S COMING AROUND!

Oooo...



AQUALAD! WHERE'S **MERA?** AND THE OTHERS? WHERE ARE THEY? WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!

HUH? WHAT OTHERS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MERA! SHE'S... SHE'S BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE!

WHAT??

OOOO... FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN OUT COLD FOR QUITE AWHILE! GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH CHANCE OF OUR CATCHING UP TO THEM **NOW!**

WHO...WHO WERE THEY?

I... I DON'T KNOW! COULDN'T SEE THEM! BUT THAT ONE GUY SURE PACKED A WALLOP... DIDN'T SEEM LIKE AN ORDINARY PUNCH EITHER... MORE LIKE HE HAD SOME SORT OF SUPER-STRENGTH OR SOMETHING!

WE'D BETTER GET **AQUABABY** HOME! AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT!

THEN, AS THE ATLANTEANS HEAD TOWARD THEIR UNDERSEA CITY, **AQUAMAN** EXPLAINS FURTHER...

...SOMEHOW **THEY** MUST HAVE PRODUCED THE SWIRLING OF THE WATER... TO SERVE AS CAMOUFLAGE... WHILE THEY WERE TAKING **MERA!**

BUT **WHY** WAS SHE TAKEN? AND WHO'S BEHIND IT ALL? THOSE ARE THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS I MUST FIND THE ANSWERS TO IF I EVER HOPE TO FIND **MERA!**

AND ONCE THEY REACH ATLANTIS...

AQUAMAN, I THINK I FOUND A WAY TO REMOVE THE SUBSTANCE BLACK MANTA INFUSED INTO OUR DOME! * THAT WAY WE...

DON'T BOTHER ME NOW, VULKO! I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON MY MIND!

I CAN STILL SEE **THAT RING**, WITH THE STRANGE FIVE-SIDED STONE, THAT THE ONE WHO SLUGGED ME WORE!

MOST LIKELY, THIS WAS JUST PHASE ONE OF A MUCH LARGER SCHEME! SO PERHAPS I SHOULD STAY HERE... WAIT FOR HER CAPTORS TO MAKE THEIR NEXT MOVE!

NO! I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND! I'VE GOT TO GO LOOK FOR HER... GOT TO FIND **MERA!**

THUS, LEAVING **AQUABABY** IN THE CARE OF **TULA**, **AQUAMAN** AND **AQUALAD** SOON RIDE OUT FROM ATLANTIS, TO BEGIN THEIR SEARCH FOR **QUEEN MERA**...

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE LITTLE FELLA! WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT! HIS MOTHER, TOO!

WISH I **FELT** AS CONFIDENT AS THAT **SOUNDED!**

THAT'S BECAUSE I DON'T **KNOW** WHERE!

CHANCES OF FINDING HER ARE SLIM, BUT ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN JUST SITTING AROUND, WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO BREAK! WE **HAVE** TO KEEP LOOKING... TILL WE FIND A CLUE!

MERA COULD BE IN ANY ONE OF A MILLION PLACES! HER CAPTORS COULD BE INHABITANTS OF ANY OF A THOUSAND UNDERWATER COLONIES! OR THEY COULD JUST AS WELL BE **AIR-BREATHERS!**

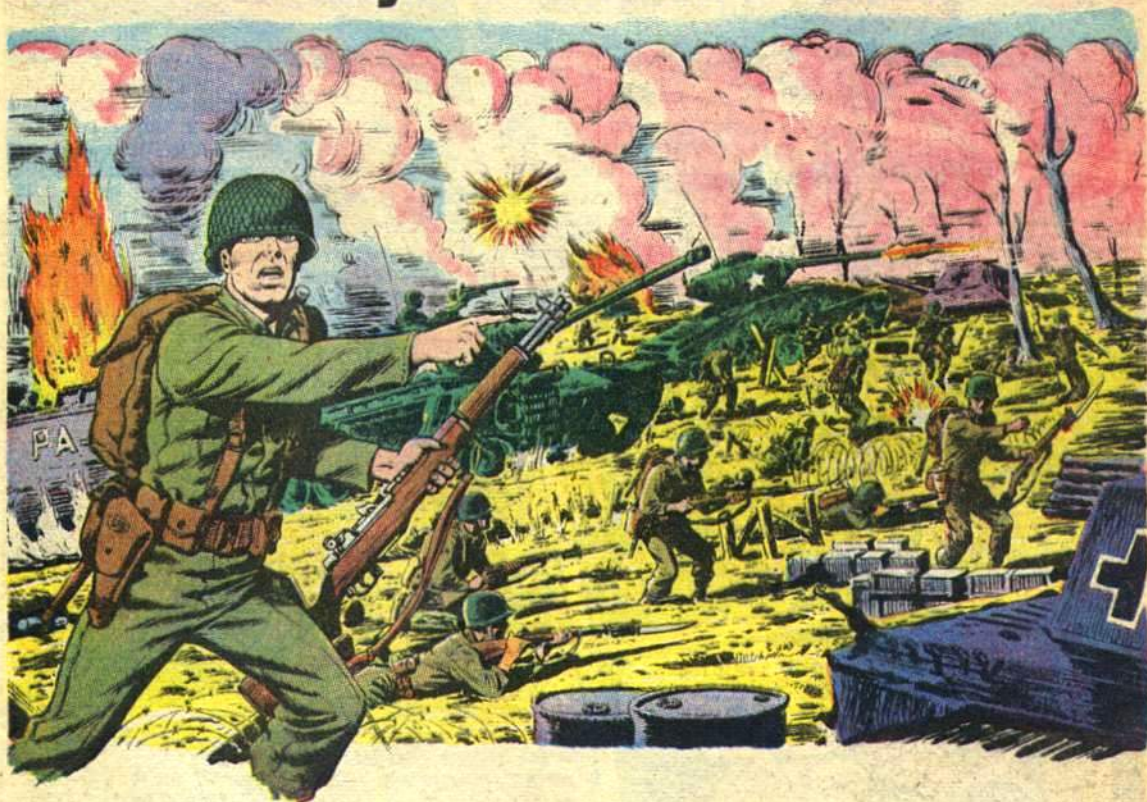
AQUAMAN, YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHERE WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN THE SEARCH!

MORE THAN A DAY PASSES... THE TWO SEARCHERS PUSH ON RELENTLESSLY... UNTIL...

LOOK, **AQUAMAN!** WHAT IS IT??

LOOKS LIKE A WALLED-IN MEDIEVAL VILLAGE... BUT IT KEEPS SHIMMERING AND WAVERING... AS THOUGH IT WEREN'T REALLY THERE... AS THOUGH IT WERE A **MIRAGE**...

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THEN, STEALTHILY THEY MOVE IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...

WELL, IT'S **REAL** ALL RIGHT! BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING VERY WEIRD ABOUT THIS PLACE!

BUT LIKE I SAID, WE'RE GOING TO SEARCH **EVERYWHERE**... LISTEN, I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND INSIDE! YOU'D BETTER STAY HERE AND...

BUT... OH, ALL RIGHT! BUT WATCH YOUR STEP! **IF** THIS PLACE IS INHABITED, THE PEOPLE MAY NOT LIKE UNINVITED VISITORS! WE'LL TRY THE REAR ENTRANCE... SEE IF WE CAN SLIP IN, UNNOTICED!

OH NO! I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO WAIT AT THE DOOR...

WOW! DIG THOSE CRAZY THREADS...

SHHH...

ZZZ

WELL, WE'RE IN! BUT FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT GUARD, I DOUBT THAT THESE FOLKS APPRECIATE FOREIGNERS!

MAYBE WE OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT FITTING IN!

MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY! AND THERE ARE OUR TWO PIGEONS NOW!

WITHIN SECONDS...

NOT QUITE MY SIZE, BUT I GUESS IT'LL DO!

HURRY UP! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN...

YOU CHECK OUT THAT SIDE OF TOWN! I'LL LOOK OVER HERE... THEN WE'LL MEET BACK AT THE...

WAIT!
AQUAMAN, LOOK!
TH-THAT PROCESSION!

AQUAMAN TURNS, AND THE SIGHT OF A FAMILIAR
FACE ROCKS HIS SENSES... BUT THE AMAZEMENT
DOESN'T STOP THERE...

WHA-? IT...
IT'S **NERA!!**
SHE'S HERE!

BUT... SHE'S
LEADING THE
PROCESSION!

AND THOSE
PEOPLE-- THEY'RE
BOWING DOWN TO HER!
AS THOUGH SHE WERE
THEIR QUEEN!

**END
PART
ONE**

PART TWO of
"SORCERERS OF THE SEA"
CONTINUES ON 388 PAGE
FOLLOWING...

MAY, 1968

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PLAN OF THE BAT-
CAVE

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BATMAN

ROBIN

ON SALE 9th MAY

THE SECRETS OF BATMAN'S SPEC- TACULAR EQUIPMENT

**ON SALE 9th
MAY**



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I'LL CUT OFF SOME OF THE **FURLED ENDS** FROM THE **SPOKES**, AND TRIM TO SIZE. NOW, I'LL HEAT THE ENDS I WANT TO INSERT.

THAT'S GREAT, SON. THEY LOOK LIKE **REAL VENTILATORS**.



6605-----CUT OUT FOR YOUR **SCRAPBOOK**-----



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"SORCERERS OF THE SEA"

INCREDIBLE! ALL THESE PEOPLE, KNEELING DOWN BEFORE **MEERA**! IT'S AS THOUGH SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THEIR QUEEN!

STAY HERE, **AQUALAD**! I'M GOING TO MOVE IN CLOSER... SEE IF I CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

?

BUT BEFORE **AQUAMAN** CAN REACH HIS BELOVED **MEERA**...

KNEEL, FOOL! SHOW PROPER RESPECT FOR YOUR... EH? AN **OUTSIDER**!

UH-OH... BETTER SCOOT!

LOOK! THE **OUTSIDER** SEEKS TO ATTACK OUR QUEEN! **SLAY HIM... AT ONCE!**

GOT TO GRAB **MEERA** AND GET THE HECK OUTTA HERE!

OOOPS! THE WHOLE TOWN'S UP IN ARMS AGAINST ME! NOW I'M **REALLY** IN FOR IT!



THESE PEOPLE ARE REACTING SLOWLY! SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE IN A TRANCE...

AND THEY'RE WEAK... NOT AT ALL LIKE THAT ONE WHO SLUGGED ME BACK NEAR ATLANTIS!



BUT THEY NEEDN'T BE ANY STRONGER THAN THEY ARE! THEY'LL MOW ME DOWN BY SHEER NUMBERS...

OUR QUEEN IS SAFE! HE CANNOT ESCAPE MY BLADE, NOW!



AQUAMAN! LOOK OUT! BEHIND YOU!

HUH?



THANKS FOR THE WARNING, TADPOLE... SAVED MY NECK!



LOOK! ANOTHER ONE! SLAY THEM BOTH! NO OUTSIDER SHALL ATTACK OUR SACRED QUEEN!



INSTANTLY, THE ROBED ONES TURN TOWARD A NEW QUARRY... ONE WHO APPEARS TO BE LESS FORMIDABLE THAN AQUAMAN...

CAN'T MOVE... THEY'VE GOT ME!



THE SEA KING TRIES TO BREAK FREE FROM HIS ATTACKERS...

YI! MY ARM!!

GOOD GOD! NO! AQUALAD!!

ENRAGED, AQUAMAN RIPS INTO THE ASSAILANTS CLUSTERED ABOUT HIS FALLEN ALLY...

SCUM! YOU HAD HIM AT YOUR MERCY! YOU HAD NO REASON TO USE A SWORD ON HIM!

BUT HIS RAGE CAUSES HIM TO ABANDON ALL CAUTION AND...



SOMETIME LATER, CONSCIOUSNESS SLOWLY RETURNS TO THE KING OF THE SEA. THE CONFINING WALLS OF A DUNGEON COME SLOWLY INTO FOCUS... THEN...

A-AQUALAD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH, I'M OKAY! LOST A BIT OF BLOOD! THAT'S ALL!

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU! YOU WERE OUT FOR QUITE SOME TIME!



... THEN YOU'VE BEEN AWAKE ALL THE WHILE! DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE? HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT MERA?

NO... NOT ABOUT MERA, ANYWAY!



BUT WHILE THEY WERE BRINGING US HERE I DID LISTEN IN ON A COUPLE OF CONVERSATIONS!

SEEMS THAT THE LEADERS AROUND HERE... LIKE THAT GUY WHO WAS GIVING THE ORDERS OUT THERE-- ARE CALLED "THE SORCERERS." THEY SEEM TO HAVE SOME SORT OF MYSTICAL HOLD OVER THEIR SUBJECTS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT MERA? HOW DOES SHE FIT INTO ALL THIS? WHY WAS SHE BROUGHT HERE?

HEY... LISTEN! SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT OF MOTOR REVVING UP! WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...





MOTOR?...

UH-OH! THERE'S YOUR ANSWER! UP THERE! THEY'RE PUMPING THE WATER OUT OF THIS ROOM!

SUFFERIN' SEA SNAKES!



THIS MUST BE THEIR WAY OF FINISHING OFF UNWANTED GUESTS! LOCK THEM UP... TAKE AWAY THEIR WATER... GIVE THEM A NICE LONG LINGERING DEATH!

THIS DOESN'T GIVE US MUCH TIME...



...WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE WITHIN AN HOUR OR WE'RE DONE FOR!

WE'VE GOT LESS TIME THAN THAT, I'M AFRAID...



AQUALAD MAY NOT BE COMPLAINING, BUT HE LOOKS QUITE PALE! I DOUBT THAT HE'D LAST MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR WITHOUT WATER...

I HAVE TO WORK FAST...



HMM... THEY LEFT OUR ROBES...

THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA...



STRAINING MIGHTILY, AQUAMAN CONCENTRATES! TELEPATHIC EMANATIONS RADIATE FROM HIS BRAIN, SUMMONING FORTH...

...A GIANT BULL WHALE!

WHO EXPLODES THROUGH THE OUTER WALL OF THE VILLAGE, AND SMASHES THE SMALL BUILDING THAT HOUSES THE DUNGEON...




AND UNDER THE COVER OF THE ENSUING CONFUSION...





THAT DID IT!
WE'RE FREE!



AQUALAD WAS
WORSE OFF THAN I
THOUGHT! HE'S
PASSED OUT!

DON'T SEE **NERA**
ANYWHERE! NO TIME TO
LOOK FOR HER NOW! GOT
TO GET **AQUALAD** BACK
TO ATLANTIS FAST! HE
NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION!
I'LL BE BACK, **NERA**...
I'LL COME BACK FOR
YOU!



IF... IF THEY DO ANYTHING TO HARM HER... I'LL... I'LL...



... BUT MERA SHOULD BE SAFE WHILE WE'RE GONE! AFTER ALL, SHE'S THESE PEOPLE'S "SACRED QUEEN!"

HAVE TO MOVE FAST, THOUGH... FOR THE BOY'S SAKE...

AND SO THE LONG, ARDUOUS JOURNEY BEGINS... WITH **AQUAMAN** PRODDING HIS MOUNT TO MOVE WITH UTMOST SPEED... HE STOPS ONLY TO TEND TO HIS COMPANION'S WOUND... OCCASIONALLY, THE BOY COMES TO, BUT FOR ONLY A FEW MOMENTS EACH TIME...



AQUAMAN, WHAT ABOUT MERA? YOU'VE GOT... TO GO BACK... AND...

I'LL BE GOING BACK! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! JUST TRY TO GET SOME REST...



FINALLY...

ATLANTIS! WE MADE IT!

AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON! THAT WOUND REALLY LOOKS BAD! SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T...

NO! MUSTN'T **THINK** ABOUT IT! GOT TO GET INSIDE...



SHORTLY...

DON'T WORRY! HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT! BUT IT'LL BE SOME TIME BEFORE HE'LL BE ABLE TO USE THAT ARM AGAIN...

WELL?...

WHEW! I SHOULD BE GLAD IT'S NO WORSE THAN THIS! BUT STILL, THOSE CREEPS ARE **GOING TO PAY!**

THEN...

MUST GET BACK THERE...
TO MERA!

NO USE STOPPING OFF
TO SEE AQUAGIRL AND
THE LITTLE FELLA!
THERE'LL BE TIME
ENOUGH FOR REUNIONS,
ONCE I'VE RETURNED
MERA TO MY SIDE!

THIS TIME, HE RIDES
ALONE... AND AS HE NEARS
THE STRANGE VILLAGE
ONCE AGAIN...

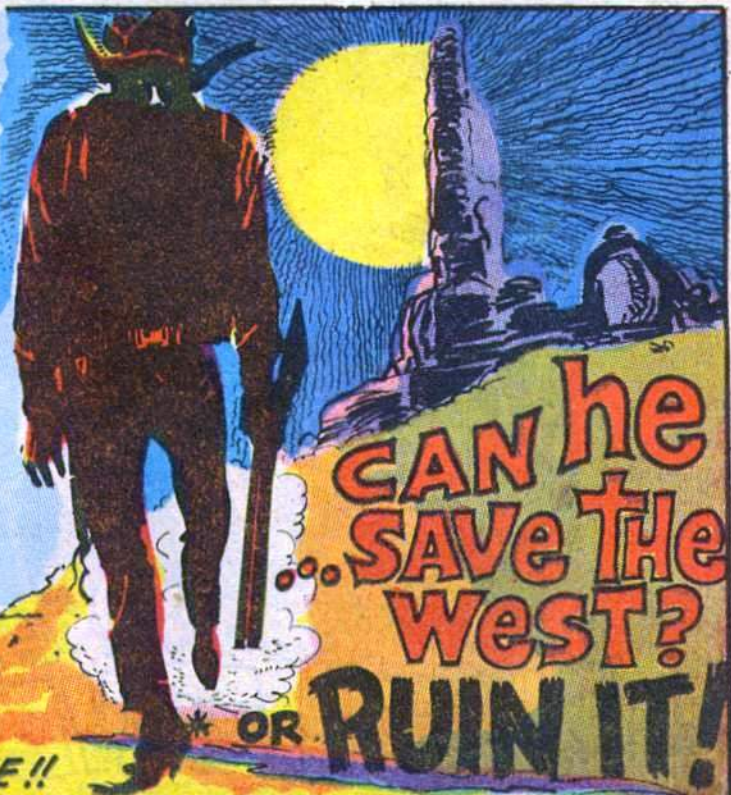
Whew, AM I BEAT!
BEEN GOING FOR
THREE DAYS STRAIGHT!

GOTTA GET SOME
SLEEP... HAVE TO REST...
OR I'LL NEVER BE
ABLE TO FIGHT MY
WAY IN THERE!

SLEEP COMES QUICKLY...
AND AQUAMAN IS UNAWARE OF
THE STRANGELY OMINOUS
SHADOW THAT SOON FALLS
OVER HIM...

END of PART 2 - PART 3 CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING...

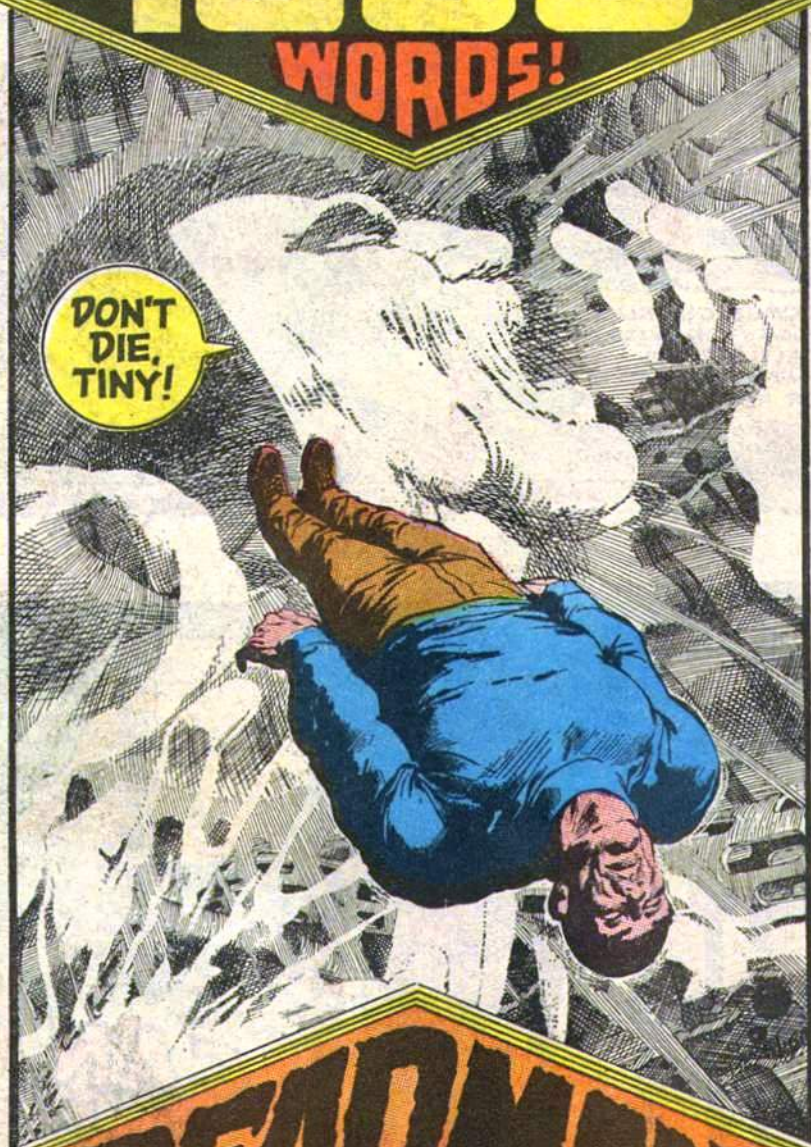
BAT LASH



CAN he
..SAVE the
WEST?
OR RUIN IT!

COMING IN SHOWCASE!!

ONE PICTURE
IS WORTH A
1000
WORDS!



DEADMAN
STARRING IN

STRANGE ADVENTURES

AUGUST ISSUE ON SALE MAY 23RD.

SINISTER SOUNDS... THE SOUND OF A HUGE OBJECT MOVING RAPIDLY THROUGH THE WATER! STILL DAZED BY HIS LONG JOURNEY AND DEEP IN THE SLEEP OF THE DEAD, ONLY A MAN ACCUSTOMED TO THE SOUNDS OF PERIL AND THE SMELL OF DEATH COULD BE AROUSED BY THE ALMOST INTANGIBLE PRESENCE OF EVIL! SUCH A MAN IS **AQUAMAN!**

RRRRRR

WHA-? WHAT IS IT?

LOOKS TOO BIG TO BE REAL! GOT TO GET AWAY

ALL THOUGHTS OF REST FLEE **AQUAMAN'S** MIND... TO BE REPLACED BY HIS INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL! THEN...

IT'S WAVERING... JUST LIKE THAT VILLAGE DID WHEN WE FIRST SAW IT!

THE SORCERERS! THEY MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!

THEY FIGURED I'D BE BACK, AND SENT THIS THING OUT TO STOP ME! WELL, IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK!

IT'S COMING FOR ME! NOW IF I CAN JUST GET ENOUGH MOMENTUM BEHIND ME...

THEN, SWIMMING FORWARD WITH TREMENDOUS SPEED, AS ONLY THE SEA KING CAN...



GOT TO GIVE HIM EVERYTHING I'VE GOT! IF I DON'T K.O. HIM ON THE FIRST PUNCH, I MIGHT NOT GET A SECOND TRY!

AQUAMAN'S FIST BLURS AS IT ARCS THROUGH THE WATER, BUT...



HUH? IT... IT VANISHED!!

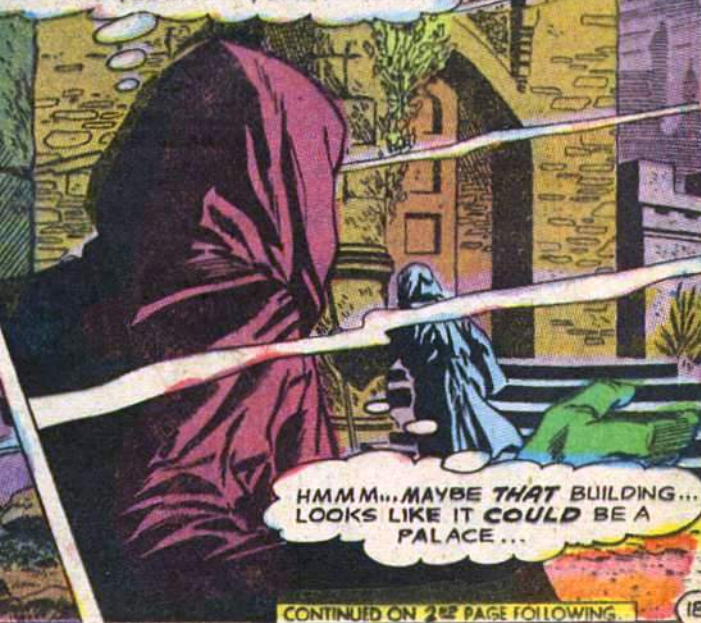
SORCERY! OF COURSE! THAT'S IT! THEY NEVER INTENDED FOR ME OR ANYONE ELSE TO FIGHT THAT THING, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO FRIGHTEN ME AWAY!

SOON, OUTSIDE THE STRANGE, SHIMMERING CITY...

THIS WILL BE THE THIRD TIME I'VE USED THIS WEARING-THE-ROBE BIT! IT WORKED THE OTHER TWO TIMES, SO WHY NOT THIS TIME, TOO!



WELL, THAT WAS EASY... NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE ROYAL PALACE... AND THE QUEEN'S QUARTERS...



HMMM...MAYBE THAT BUILDING... LOOKS LIKE IT COULD BE A PALACE...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

RIDE the
HIGH SEAS
with

BOATERIFIC

the NEW ACTION FLEET,
POWERED by the FAMOUS
MOTORIFIC
MOTORS!

NOW HEAR THIS: NOW MOTORIFIC
TAKES TO THE WATER WITH BOATERIFIC.
THERE ARE 8 GREAT BOATERIFIC
BOATS AND EACH ONE HAS A FULLY
STEERABLE RUDDER, REAL
PROPELLER POWER, AN AUTOMATIC
BAILING PUMP AND SUPER-REALISTIC
DETAILS. JUST SNAP IN A MOTOR...
BATTEN DOWN THE HATCH AND
FULL SPEED AHEAD WITH
BOATERIFIC!



RACE 'EM!



PUT 'EM ON A COLLISION COURSE!



SET ANY DIRECTION
YOU WANT...



DO ALL KINDS OF TRICKY MANEUVERS!



REAL, AUTOMATIC BAILING
PUMP KEEPS EACH BOAT
RIDING HIGH.



BE THE SKIPPER OF YOUR OWN BOATERIFIC FLEET... GET 'EM ALL!

"BARRACUDA"
SPORT FISHERMAN



"ATLAS"
HARBOR TUG



"MIGHTY BLAZE"
FIRE BOAT



"KING OF THE SEA"
CABIN CRUISER



"WHIRL-A-WAY"
RUNABOUT



"MARLIN TOWER"
FISHERMAN



"P.T. 204"
PATROL BOAT



BOATERIFIC™
It's TERRIFIC... IT'S

IDEAL

NOBODY AROUND INSIDE! THAT'LL MAKE MOVEMENT A LOT EASIER...

AND NO ONE SEEMED TO MIND MY COMING IN HERE...



LONG CORRIDOR AFTER LONG CORRIDOR, LEADING TO SILENT EMPTY ROOMS...

THIS PLACE IS DESERTED...



NO! WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE STATIONED OUTSIDE THAT ROOM! COULD BE THE QUEEN'S GUARD!

AND SURE ENOUGH, AS AQUAMAN APPROACHES...

HALT! YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE! NO MERE SUBJECT IS ALLOWED TO APPROACH THE QUEEN'S CHAMBERS!



WELL, WELL, THANKS FOR THE BRIEFING...

NOW I HAVE ALL THE FACTS I NEED!

EH? AN OUTSIDER... STOP!



THE ROBED ONE CALMLY RAISES HIS HANDS, AND A STRANGE ENERGY BEAM CRACKLES THROUGH THE BRINE AND SLAMS THE SEA KING BACK AGAINST THE WALL...



UNNNH!

KKKRAKKK

HE'S... HITTING ME WITH
SOME SORT OF FORCE
BEAM... GOT TO FIGHT IT!



IT'S USELESS TO RESIST, UNENLIGHTENED
DOLT! NO ONE CAN OVERCOME
THE POWERS OF THE
SEA SORCERERS!

THANKS FOR THE
CONCERN! BUT I'D
RATHER LEARN BY EXPERIENCE,
IF YOU DON'T MIND...



I... I'M MAKING... SOME HEADWAY!

AND WITH EACH
STEP... THE GOING
SEEMS TO... GET
EASIER!



ONE THING'S IN MY FAVOR! HE
CAN'T TRY ANYTHING ELSE! HE'S
GOT HIS HANDS FULL... POURING
ON THE ENERGY!



HE KNOWS IF HE LETS UP
FOR JUST A SECOND, I'LL
BE ALL OVER HIM...

A CONTEST OF WILLS... EACH CONTESTANT UTILIZING
ALL HIS STRENGTH... AND **AQUAMAN** DRAWS A
LITTLE CLOSER WITH EACH PASSING SECOND...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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...STEP BY STEP...INCH BY INCH...UNTIL...

ALMOST GOT HIM! ONLY A FEW MORE PACES...

NO! THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE! YOU...

IT'S POSSIBLE, FELLA! BELIEVE ME...

THERE! NOW NOTHING STANDS IN MY WAY!

NOT BAD FOR AN "UNENLIGHTENED DOLT!"

THE SACRED QUEEN RECOILS, AS SHE RECOGNIZES THE OUTSIDER WHO ONCE TRIED TO "ATTACK" HER...

AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT...

NERA...!?

WHA--? HOW DARE YOU COME BARGI... YOU!

YOU'RE BACK!! WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT? GET AWAY FROM ME!

NERA! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?

IT'S AQUAMAN! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? HAVE THEY PUT YOU IN A TRANCE, TOO!

I S-SAID GET AWAY!

HERE! LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT MY FACE! I... WHA--?

Y-YOUR EYES! THEY'RE... THEY'RE NOT THE SAME COLOR...

Y-YOU'RE NOT NERA! YOU...YOU CAN'T BE!!

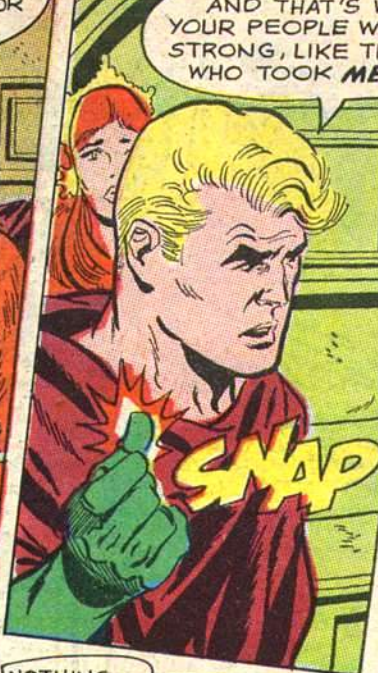
YOU'RE JUST A...A **LOOK-ALIKE!**
YOU COULD PASS AS **MERA'S**
TWIN!

I...I DON'T BELIEVE
IT! I WENT THROUGH
ALL THIS BECAUSE
OF A DOUBLE FOR
MERA!



YES, IT...IT ALL MAKES SENSE!
THAT'S WHY THE PEOPLE ACTED
AS THOUGH YOU HAD ALWAYS
BEEN THEIR QUEEN! YOU
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THEIR
QUEEN!

AND THAT'S WHY
YOUR PEOPLE WEREN'T
STRONG, LIKE THOSE
WHO TOOK **MERA**...



THE SORCERERS HAD
NOTHING TO DO WITH
MERA'S ABDUCTION!
THIS WAS ALL A
COINCIDENCE...
A MONSTEROUS
COINCIDENCE!



SOMEONE ELSE
TOOK HER, AND I'VE
BEEN WASTING MY TIME
CHASING A DOUBLE!

NOW WHAT?? LOOKS
LIKE I'M RIGHT BACK
WHERE I STARTED!

GOT TO GET OUT
AND START SEARCHING
FOR HER AGAIN!



WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S
THIS ALL ABOUT??

NOTHING
FOR YOU TO WORRY
ABOUT! IT'S MY PROBLEM
NOW! I FOUGHT MY
WAY IN HERE, AND IF I
HAVE TO, I'LL FIGHT MY
WAY BACK OUT! I
STILL HAVE TO
FIND **MERA!**

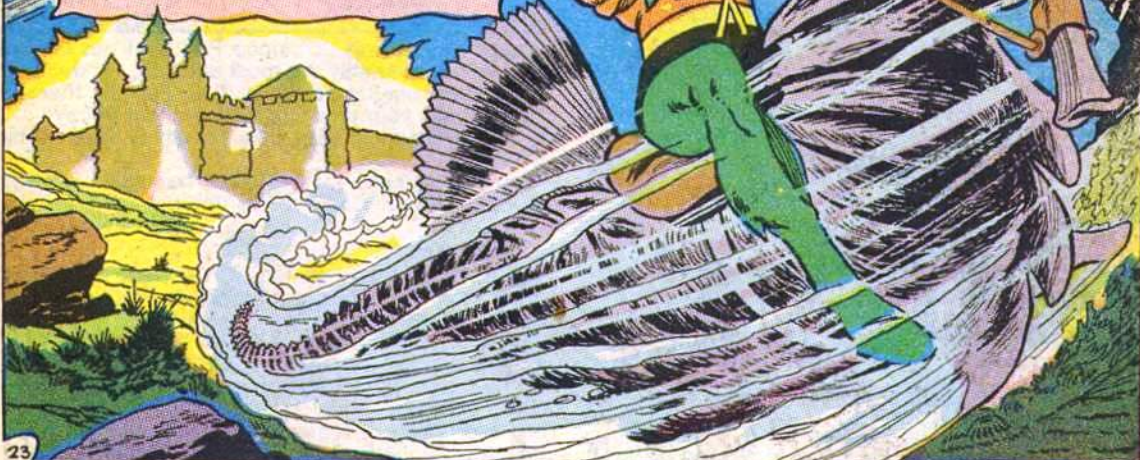


**BUT LUCK
IS WITH THE KING OF
THE SEA...**

GOOD! HE'S STILL
UNCONSCIOUS! SO MAYBE
I CAN AT LEAST MAKE IT OUT
OF HERE WITHOUT GETTING
INTO A FIGHT!



A STRANGE VILLAGE, THAT STILL SHIMMERS AS THOUGH IT WEREN'T REAL... AND STRANGER YET, THE COINCIDENCE. BUT NOW WHAT? WHERE WILL HE LOOK NEXT? PERHAPS NEWS OF **MERA** AWAITS HIM BACK IN ATLANTIS... PERHAPS NOT!



NO...THIS ISN'T THE END! IN THE NEXT ISSUE, **AQUAMAN** CONTINUES HIS FRENZIED SEARCH FOR HIS BELOVED **MERA** AND ENCOUNTERS A STRANGE CIVILIZATION NESTLED IN A FOREBODING, UNEXPLORED, UNDERSEA VALLEY, KNOWN ONLY AS "THE DEPTHS"! DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING TALE WE CALL,

"THE TRAIL OF THE RING!"

**WE
DOUBLE
DARE YOU**

TO BUY THE NEXT
EXCITING AND UNUSUAL
ISSUE OF **HOUSE OF MYSTERY!**



Dear Editor:

Aquaman No. 37 was the absolute greatest! The Ocean Master was merely fabulous, and the Scavenger is mildly terrific! I don't know who drew it, but the art was fab! The lettering was a little blurred, and the dialogue concerning Aquad was corny. You showed real human characteristics in the animals. Does Steve Ditko work for you? He is a darn good artist. I used to be a devout Brand I reader, but they brag too much. You guys don't downgrade any other peoples, races, or creeds, like they do. They make it look like Americans are the greatest people on earth. We here in Canada feel that Brand I are a bunch of bloated, gaseous lamebrains. However, they have several good points.

1. Foreign Superheroes
2. Straight dialogue

I like the Golden Age Brand I comics best. Here is my list of favorite superheroes:

1. Aquaman
2. Flash
3. Green Lantern
4. Hawkman
5. Brand I

A few questions . . . Is Aqualad Aquaman's son? Are all letters read or only a few chosen ones?

Roger Still

Napanee, Ont., Canada

P.S. Love is o.k., but don't overdo it.

Roger, m'lud, you certainly do write a real ramblin' letter. Let's see if I can fill you in!

1. Nick Cardy, a real pro, drew Aquaman No. 37. las Issue (No. 39) will be Nick's last for a while . . . Joe Orlando robbed him for a new assignment while my back was turned. Oh, woe!

2. Steve Ditko will indeed be working for us! He'll be doing at least two features . . . The Creeper and The Hawk and the Dove. Look for them!

3. I haven't the faintest idea who you're referring to by "Brand I" but if I did, I'd have to disagree with most of what you say about them. My mother always told me, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything!"

4. I don't think it's ever been explained exactly where Aqualad came from. Perhaps we'll devote a future issue to an origin.

5. All letters are read by yours truly . . . each and every day.

C'mon, Roger, how can you overdo love?

Dear Editor:

By the flame-red hair of the beautiful Mera, thou has committed a grievous error! I'm referring to page 9 and page 16 of AQUAMAN #37.

As a faithful reader of your mags I have grown accustomed to seeing your stories in parts, but this is ridiculous! Two part 3's? On the two aforementioned pages, the heading of each part is 3! And don't give the flimsy excuse that page 16 was a continuation of page 9 either, because it didn't say continued! Explain that, if you can!

But in all other respects it was a great mag. And, as to Aquagirl, please bring her back! She's great!

MISS MICHELLE PECK
MONSON, MASS.

Would you believe . . . since Part 3 of our stories are almost invariably the most exciting, we decided to give you, our loyal readers, TWO Part 3's, thereby DOUBLING your pleasure? (Would you believe . . . it was a lettering goof that somehow slipped by everyone?)

Aquagirl is happy that you like her and promises she'll be around from time to time.

Dear Editor:

AQUAMAN #38 was fab with perfect artwork, a great story and excellent dialogue. Who were the credits? They deserve the Alley Awards! One thing though I have not been able to get issue #37. Is there any way I can? The suspense is killing me!

I like your letters page because the letters are short, but before I end, please tell me if AQUAMAN has ever been in some other mag than his own. I began collecting comics with AQUAMAN #25 and noticed that it is published bi-monthly. Still, I seem to recall buying issues of the SEA KING about eight years ago. Is this possible?

There's only one thing wrong with your comics—they're published bi-monthly instead of daily, but I'll settle for monthly. How about it? Thanks again for a gear mag!

ROXANNE CINTRON
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY

By the number:

1-AQUAMAN #38 was written by Bob Haney and drawn by Nick Cardy. Send all Alley Awards to . . .

2-We cannot fill back orders. Sorry. Perhaps you can trade 2 of our competitors comics for AQUAMAN #37 with one of your less discerning friends!

3-Go to the head of the memory class! Aquaman was created by Mort Weisinger back in the early 40's and has appeared, at different times, in MORE FUN COMICS, WORLD'S FINEST, ADVENTURE COMICS and DETECTIVE COMICS.

4- FREQUENCY of publication CAN be changed when (hint) reader reaction demands it!

Dear Editor:

I just bought AQUAMAN #38 . . . it was fab! Liquidator was groovy! However I was upset not to see AQUAGIRL. I think AQUALAD & AQUAGIRL should get a big romance going!

She's the coolest chick ever! I fell in love with her the minute I saw her! She should try out for THE TEEN TITANS. Please make AQUAGIRL a regular!

KEN FORD
L.A., CALIF.

Ah, young love in bloom!

One thing though . . . If you have such a thing for AQUAGIRL, how come you're trying to promote a romance between her and AQUALAD?

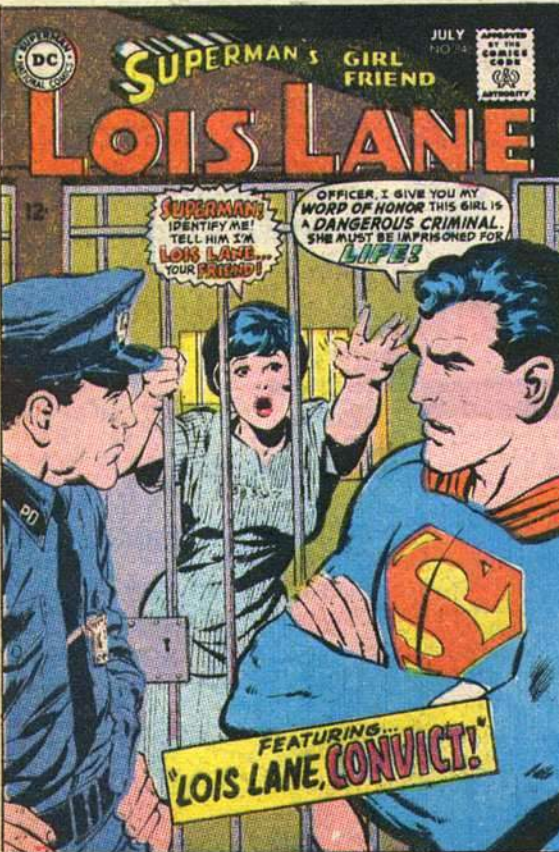
Oh, well . . . I was young and foolish once, too.

ADDRESS MAIL TO: **AQUA-MAIL**
NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.
575 LEXINGTON AVE.
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

DIRECT CURRENTS

Well, here it is time for another look at what the future holds in the DC line. But first, we want to extend a big thank-you to every reader who has sent an idea to CAP'S HOBBY HINTS. The suggestions pour in by the carload . . . too many to acknowledge each one personally. If your idea wasn't used, chances are someone beat you to it, and it had already been printed earlier. But that doesn't mean you can't try again. It's you readers who supply the material that has made this feature such a smashing success.

The August **HOUSE OF MYSTERY** sports another cover masterpiece by that dean of the DC drawing-board, NEAL ADAMS! It illustrates a story called "HOUSE OF GARGOYLES!" And what are the GARGOYLES? An ugly addition to a sleepy midwestern town—which wakes the town up! In fact, the creepy creatures are hated by everyone—except the kids! Where did the grotesque newcomers come from? And why are they there? The kids find out, and so will you—in No. 175, on sale May 9!



Can you imagine **LOIS LANE** being arrested . . . booked . . . fingerprinted . . . handcuffed . . . mugged . . . slapped into a jail cell? You won't have to imagine it . . . you'll SEE it in the **July** issue, No. 84, when it goes on sale, May 14! It's the most hopeless predicament of **LOIS'** life! She can't contact **SUPERMAN** or the **DAILY PLANET** . . . and the evidence is all dead against her! Can she possibly beat the rap . . . or will the next issue take place behind prison walls?

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The **DOOM PATROL** has fought every kind of formidable foe on land, on the sea, and in the air! But now comes a sinister enemy based in the stratosphere, whose prime purpose is to destroy orbiting satellites! And when he's confronted by our fearsome foursome, "THE RAGE OF THE WRECKER" has no bounds! If you want to see a fight to rock the globe—and maybe everything within a few million miles—latch onto the **August** ish, No. 120, on sale May 16!

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